United Nations A/67/985–S/2013/540

General Assembly
Security Council

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**General Assembly**
**Sixty-seventh session**
Agenda item 121
**Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-eighth year**

## Letter dated 10 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), has the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué of CELAC on the situation in Syria adopted on 9 September 2013 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of CELAC, would be grateful if the Executive Office of the Secretary-General would circulate the present letter and the CELAC communiqué as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 121.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of CELAC, would be grateful if the communiqué could also be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodolfo **Reyes Rodríguez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations
President Pro Tempore of the Community
of Latin American and Caribbean States

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## Annex to the letter dated 10 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

## Communiqué of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on the situation in Syria

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) deeply regrets the loss of life and wishes to expresses its great concern over the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the potential danger it represents to the Middle East region and to international peace and security.

CELAC vigorously condemns the use of chemical weapons and any other weapons of mass destruction, regardless of where or by whom they are used. Its member States reaffirm their full commitment to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

CELAC therefore calls upon all those who have evidence of chemical weapons use in Syria and about those using them to provide that information to the United Nations investigation mechanisms in order to assist with full clarification of the facts and to prevent possible consequences.

It asks the Security Council, based on its authority and on the report of the United Nations investigation mission, to step up its efforts for peace in order to bring an end to the hostilities. CELAC is of the view that if chemical weapons use is verified, those responsible should not go unpunished. CELAC recalls that, under the Charter of the United Nations, only the Security Council can take action.

Reiterating its support for peace and respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international humanitarian law, CELAC demands the immediate cessation of the violence and the protection of the civilian population; urges a stop to the supplying of weapons to Syrian territory; and urges all parties to avoid aggression and attacks against civilians and to establish conditions conducive to a negotiated political solution to the conflict in Syria, a conflict that has cost thousands of innocent lives.

In this context, CELAC calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue his efforts to bring the conflict to an end and reiterates its support for Lakhdar Brahimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, and for the convening of an international conference on the situation in Syria.

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**General Assembly**
**Sixty-seventh session**
Agenda item 33
**Prevention of armed conflict**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-eighth year**

## Identical letters dated 9 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings and to inform you that a special meeting of the Political Council of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) was held in Caracas, Venezuela, on 7 September 2013.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms its adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, while it considers this the multilateral forum par excellence for addressing the challenges faced by the international community.

In this regard, I have the honour to attach herewith a copy of the special resolution on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (see annex).

I should appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Permanent Representative

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**Annex to the identical letters dated 9 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

# Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement

## Special resolution on the situation in Syria

The Political Council of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP), at a special meeting held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 7 September 2013,

Considering:

Its founding principle of promoting the coordination of positions in multilateral forums and in all types of negotiations with countries and blocs in other regions,

The fragile situation of internal conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic,

That the Middle East region is an area where grave threats and conflict persist, especially in Palestine, and where the consequences of recent foreign military interventions are still being felt,

That any direct or indirect intervention by foreign powers in the domestic affairs of the sister nations of the Middle East, and particularly in the Syrian Arab Republic, not only constitutes a flagrant violation of the international principle of self-determination of peoples, but also exacerbates tensions between the conflicting parties, further deepening the conflict,

The belligerent and interventionist statements made by the President of the United States of America and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Barack Obama, about his Government's intention to launch an imminent strike on and military invasion of the Syrian Arab Republic, against the wishes of the majority of the American people,

Resolves:

To reaffirm its commitment to peace and respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as its unconditional support for a political and negotiated solution to the internal conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic;

To condemn in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons and any other weapons of mass destruction, regardless of where they are used and by whom, and to reaffirm the full commitment of its member States to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

To categorically condemn any actual or intended foreign military intervention in Syria;

To call on the international community and opinion leaders from around the world to join forces and work actively to prevent foreign military action on Syrian

soil based on alleged attacks against civilians, as such military action would, paradoxically, lead to a spike in the bloodshed and in the number of civilians killed, wounded or displaced in Syria;

To point out that the declared purposes of the imminent military action against Syria by the Government of the United States of America are based on the same pattern of falsification and political and media manipulation used previously against countries such as Libya, Iraq and Egypt, and that the United States merely seeks to control the oil wealth of the region in order to ensure its own energy security and the expansion of Western markets;

To demand that the Government of the United States of America respect the norms and principles of international law and international humanitarian law by refraining from any military aggression or threat of use of force against the people and the Government of the sister State of the Syrian Arab Republic;

To reaffirm that these same imperial powers which now seek to establish themselves as the world's police have in recent years been supporting groups opposing President Bashar Al-Assad by training terrorist mercenary squads and providing them with state-of-the-art military weapons, with a view to intervening in and gaining control over the country, which has led to a war of conquest, the migration of hundreds of thousands of men, women, young people and infants, and the destruction of the Syrian people, the historical bulwarks of civilization and the bastions of stability in the Arab region;

To demand respect for the United Nations and its organs, especially the General Assembly and the Security Council, by the major imperial powers, which requested a transparent investigation into the alleged chemical attack against Syrian civilians that occurred on 21 August 2013 — leading to the establishment of a special commission to investigate and verify the facts and origin of the attack — but are now refusing to wait for the results of that investigation and are once again seeking to bypass the Security Council because they are unable to achieve a consensus in that body, thereby going against the opinion of the global community and the majority of Americans;

To urge the Secretary-General of the United Nations to step up his efforts to bring an end to the conflict, and to reiterate its support for Lakhdar Brahimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, and for the convening of an international conference on the situation in Syria;

To join the global day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria called for by Pope Francis;

To undertake to send planes carrying humanitarian aid to preserve life in the Syrian refugee camps established in Lebanon, as proof of its peoples' solidarity with and love for the Syrian people, particularly women, children and the elderly, who are the main victims of the imperialist aggression.

ALBA will send planes carrying aid that will sustain life, whereas the United States intends to send planes carrying bombs that would cause death and destruction.

Caracas, 7 September 2013

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**Sixty-seventh session**
Agenda item 70 (a)
**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations**

## Letter dated 14 August 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 60/124, in which the Assembly established the Advisory Group for the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to advise me on its use and impact. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 21 of that resolution, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note of the meeting of the CERF Advisory Group, which took place in Geneva on 13 and 14 May 2013 (see annex).

As summarized in that note, the Advisory Group expressed appreciation for the continuing improvements in the performance and management of the Fund. The Group considered a number of policy issues, including an update on the management response plan to the five-year evaluation of CERF; recent efforts to improve the quality of narrative reporting and monitoring on the use of CERF funds; updates on the performance and accountability framework; the underfunded emergency window; and an update on the risk action plan of CERF.

The Group participated in a teleconference with the Deputy Controller and discussed the percentage of programme support costs of CERF retained by the Office of the Controller. They expressed their concerns that donor support for CERF might be reduced if a significant portion of their contribution is used to cover costs not related to humanitarian activities of the Fund.

The Group met with members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to discuss their progress in making timely disbursements from United Nations agencies and the International Organization of Migration to implementing partners. The participants from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee also addressed progress made in their agencies' evaluations of activities funded by CERF and reported that the Fund remains one of their biggest contributors to humanitarian emergency operations.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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## Annex

### Note to the Secretary-General on the meeting of the Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund (13 and 14 May 2013)

**Recommendations and conclusions**

1. The Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/124 to advise the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, on the use and impact of the Fund. The Advisory Group's first meeting for 2013 was held in Geneva on 13 and 14 May and was chaired by Mikael Lindvall (Sweden).

2. The meeting was the members' first opportunity to interact with the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-wha Kang, and the new chief of the CERF secretariat, Lisa Doughten. The Group met with the humanitarian coordinators of Mali, South Sudan and Yemen to discuss their experiences in coordinating and leading humanitarian responses and to share their perspectives on CERF and its impact in the field. The humanitarian coordinators commended CERF for the important role it plays in strengthening in-country coordination and supporting the functions, as well as bolstering the role, of humanitarian coordinators. The discussions touched upon a wide range of issues, including the appropriateness of interpreting CERF life-saving criteria more flexibly, the degree to which humanitarian coordinators can be held accountable for the use of CERF funds, the increased use of harmonized reporting and the continued importance of the timeliness of funding and forward disbursement. The humanitarian coordinators also highlighted the active and valuable participation of governments and national authorities following CERF allocations.

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, briefed members on the use and management of the Fund during the first four months of 2013 and specifically highlighted its critical support for emergency response efforts in Mali and the Syrian Arab Republic.

4. The Advisory Group participated in a teleconference with the Deputy Controller regarding the percentage of CERF programme support costs retained by the Office of the Controller.

5. The Group had the opportunity to meet with partners from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to discuss their progress in making timely disbursements from United Nations agencies and the International Organization of Migration (IOM) to implementing partners. They discussed the Standing Committee's experiences with reporting on CERF funds and how the Fund's recently revised reporting template complements the Standing Committee's efforts to harmonize reporting. Participants from the Standing Committee also addressed the progress that had been made in their agencies' evaluations of activities funded by CERF and reported that the Fund remains one of their biggest contributors to humanitarian emergency operations.

6. The Advisory Group considered policy issues, including an update on the management response plan to the five-year evaluation of CERF; recent efforts to improve the quality of narrative reporting and monitoring on the use of CERF funds; increased timeliness of disbursements by agencies and IOM of CERF funds to

implementing partners; updates on the performance and accountability framework and the 2013 country reviews, in accordance with the framework, of Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal, and of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan and Yemen; the underfunded emergency window of the Fund; CERF complementarity with country-based pooled funds; and an update on the Fund's risk action plan.

7. Further to those discussions, the Advisory Group would like to make the following observations and recommendations:

**Management**

8. During her briefing, the Emergency Relief Coordinator informed the Advisory Group that CERF disbursed nearly $485 million to 49 countries and territories in 2012. This marked the highest amount disbursed in a single year in the history of the Fund and reflected significant funding requests for life-saving operations in the Sahel, and in the Syrian Arab Republic and the neighbouring countries, as well as vital funding for underfunded, chronic crises. She also informed members that the resource mobilization strategy for CERF was being implemented with the goal of increasing funding consistency from a broader base of Member States. The Advisory Group expressed its appreciation to the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the secretariat for their use of funds and management of CERF.

9. The Advisory Group requested the secretariat to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of limiting countries to a single allocation of support from the underfunded window per year. Noting that many of the current humanitarian crises are, in essence, protection crises, the Group requested the secretariat to substantiate how CERF funds assist protection activities. The Fund was recognized as playing a small yet significant role in facilitating resilience within emergency response activities through funding early action projects. The Group requested clarification on the roles and responsibilities of other humanitarian resilience actors and how CERF contributes to early action support resilience without expanding its mandate.

10. The secretariat was encouraged to explore the continued usefulness of the loan element given agencies' development and use of internal financing mechanisms and the diminishing number of loan requests. To help CERF further improve its transparency and accountability, the Advisory Group requested the secretariat to continue increasing the public visibility of donors' financial contributions. For the purpose of visibility and transparency, and in order to more accurately measure the Fund's impact and added value in the field, the secretariat was encouraged to work with agencies to ensure implementing partners are made more aware when CERF funds are financing their activities.

11. Members noted that humanitarian coordinators play an important role in facilitating field activities funded by CERF and requested the secretariat to continue strengthening coordinators' abilities to monitor and evaluate activities funded by CERF. The Group expressed support for the transformative agenda of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its importance for strengthening the role of humanitarian coordinators and humanitarian leadership, in general. It also encouraged host governments and local and international non-governmental organizations to be more involved in discussing the prioritization of activities, and, when appropriate, the preparation of CERF funding applications.

12. On the issue of the percentage of programme support costs retained by the Office of the Controller (60 per cent) and CERF (40 per cent), the Group expressed their appreciation for the discussion with the Deputy Controller. They expressed concerns that donor support for CERF could be reduced if a significant portion of their contributions is used to cover costs not related to the Fund's humanitarian activities. They requested that the Office of the Controller prepare a paper with disaggregated details on the Controller's use of CERF programme support costs and to participate in similar discussions at the next Advisory Group meeting, to be held in November 2013.

13. The Advisory Group recognized the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's efforts to improve the speed with which it disburses CERF funding to implementing partners and called upon the CERF secretariat and, in particular, agencies, to maintain efforts to expedite forward disbursements. The Group asked for further data on this crucial issue for the next meeting. The Group welcomed the plans of the World Food Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to evaluate their use of CERF and other pooled funds, and asked the secretariat to encourage Standing Committee members to continue to perform their own evaluations of activities funded by CERF and to share feedback. Members requested the secretariat to seek further clarification on the recent decisions of the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to increase their cost recovery rate from 7 per cent to 8 per cent and the potential impact on CERF. The Group expressed concerns around the possible disbanding of the Humanitarian Financing Working Group of the Standing Committee and requested the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure that Standing Committee discussions of humanitarian financing issues continue in an appropriate forum.

14. The Group agreed to close the management response plan to the five-year evaluation of CERF in the fourth quarter of 2013, following its successful implementation. However, it called upon the secretariat to regularly update members on items that will be mainstreamed in the Fund's longer-term workplan. It asked the secretariat to explore the amount of funds that is carried over from the previous year and whether CERF should potentially reduce this amount through more allocations or greater amounts of funding to countries in need throughout the year. The Group welcomed the continued improvement in the narrative reporting of agencies' use of CERF funds and encouraged the secretariat to explore strategies within the umbrella letter of understanding to further improve narrative reporting.

15. With regard to the review of the performance and accountability framework, the Group expressed interest in discussing the final report at its next meeting and looked forward to receiving feedback from the reviews conducted in 2013 of the Sahel (with country missions to Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan and Yemen. Members took note of the secretariat's review of the underfunded emergency window and its findings. The Group observed the importance of improving the accuracy of the Financial Tracking Service to support donors' needs and to strengthen agencies' abilities to more effectively report on their use of CERF funds.

16. The Group recognized that the harmonization of country-based pooled funds with CERF was a goal aimed at increasing the overall coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian coordination and action. The Group encouraged the secretariat to emphasize and support the role humanitarian coordinators play in facilitating the process for better results. On the risk action plan, members expressed interest in learning more about the secretariat's efforts to combat agencies and implementing partners' potential mismanagement and the misuse of CERF funds. The Group requested CERF to discuss the possibility of allocating funds to programmes as well as projects at a future Advisory Group meeting. Towards that end, the Fund's secretariat agreed to circulate a paper from 2011 commissioned by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Sub-Working Group on Humanitarian Financing on the programme-based approach.

**Administrative matters**

17. The Advisory Group expressed its support for the new chief of the Fund's secretariat. The Group elected Catherine Walker (Australia) as the new Chair and Mathewos Hunde Tulu (Ethiopia) as the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Group. The Group expressed its appreciation for the service of the outgoing Chair, Mikael Lindvall (Sweden) and Vice-Chair, Milton Rondo Filho (Brazil).

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**General Assembly**
**Sixty-seventh session**
Agenda items 34, 39, 67 and 83

**Security Council**
**Sixty-eighth year**

**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development**

**The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan**

**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

**The rule of law at the national and international levels**

## Letter dated 11 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the letters dated 15 and 30 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia (A/67/964-S/2013/496 and A/67/974-S/2013/519), which have as their annexes the statements made in the name of the unlawful separatist entity referred to by Armenia as the "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic".

It has been internationally recognized that the Daghlyq Garabagh (Nagorno-Karabakh) region and seven surrounding districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan are under Armenian military occupation. Armenia used military force to occupy the territory of Azerbaijan and to establish upon it the subordinate separatist entity. That entity is entirely unrecognized as such; it is under the direction and control of Armenia and is ultimately nothing other than the product of aggression, racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing. The illegality of the separatist entity and its structures has been repeatedly stated at the international level in the most unambiguous manner.

In its resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), adopted in response to the illegal use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories, the Security Council reaffirmed both the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory. It has further stated that Daghlyq Garabagh is part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying

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forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The numerous documents adopted by other international organizations on the conflict are phrased along the same lines.

The European Court of Human Rights has concluded that the above-mentioned separatist entity "is not recognised as a State under international law by any countries or international organisations" and that, "against this background, the invoked laws cannot be considered legally valid" (*Elkhan Chiragov and Others v. Armenia*, European Court of Human Rights, decision of 14 December 2011, application No. 13216/05, para. 102).

As is seen, the irresponsible attempts by Armenia to propagate the unlawful separatist entity evidently contravene the unanimous position of the international community with respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Against this background, the ceaseless efforts of Yerevan to mislead the international community clearly testify to the unwillingness of Armenia to comply with the obligations incumbent upon it under the Charter of the United Nations and the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, as well as to engage constructively in the ongoing efforts towards a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

There is no doubt that the annexationist claims of Armenia are without foundation and have absolutely no chance of success. The region of Daghlyq-Garabagh is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan, and there is no alternative to the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from that region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the exercise by the forcibly displaced population of their inalienable right to return and the establishment of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 67 and 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/67/989–S/2013/548

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**General Assembly**
**Sixty-seventh session**
Agenda item 36
**The situation in the Middle East**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-eighth year**

## Identical letters dated 12 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you of an incident that occurred at around 1400 hours on 29 August 2013 in the locality of Jabal Shahl, on the outskirts of Shab'a town inside Lebanese territory. An Israeli enemy patrol attempted to abduct the Lebanese citizen Ali Qasim Zahra, who was grazing his flock. He succeeded in escaping along with the flock.

My Government considers this action to be a blatant violation of my country's sovereignty, and it must be condemned on the basis of the principles and provisions of international law and international norms.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly

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**Sixty-seventh session**
Agenda item 45
**Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)**

## Letter dated 12 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, I have the honour to transmit herewith the special communiqué adopted in Caracas on 10 March 2013, in which the Alliance rejects the referendum held by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 12 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Special communiqué of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America rejecting the referendum held by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas

[Caracas, 10 March 2013]

We, the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, wish to inform the international community that we reject outright the referendum being conducted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to decide the fate of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, thereby ignoring the historical right of the Republic of Argentina to these territories.

This claim is an extension of the United Kingdom's imperial colonial policy towards these territories, which started with British colonists occupying the territories and continued with them disregarding the resolutions of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization and carrying out the military occupation of 1982, which cost the lives of more than 700 Argentine soldiers.

In this new chapter in the annals of colonial aggression, the United Kingdom is invoking the right of peoples to self-determination to justify its referendum. This is a flagrant violation of international law, since that principle applies to sovereign nations and not to disputed territories or claims such as those concerning the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

We wish to point out to the nations of the world that this referendum is illegitimate and that its results will have no binding effect on Argentina's claim to these territories.

The United Nations should take a stand in respect of this invalid act carried out by the United Kingdom, which would set a harmful precedent for the settlement of the outstanding anticolonial in the international community.

The United Kingdom should abide by the resolutions of the United Nations and enter into civilized discussions with Argentina, accepting that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are an inalienable part of the territory of our sister Republic of Argentina.

We, the member nations of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, call upon all regional integration mechanisms to denounce this new neocolonial claim of the United Kingdom, thus showing our solidarity with the Republic of Argentina.

The Malvinas Islands are Argentine. Down with colonialism and neocolonialism!